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P R E F A C E.

THIS volume opens with the record of the first meeting held in the Society's new building, March 9, 1899, and closes with the record of the stated meeting in February, 1900, — nine meetings in all. During this period several papers of more than common interest and of permanent value have been communicated, and will be found in this volume. Among them are the PRESIDENT'S address on Historians and Historical Societies, read at the Annual Meeting in April, 1899; Mr. HASSAM'S elaborate paper on the Early Attempts at Colonization in the Bahama Islands; the paper by the PRESIDENT on the Detention of the Laird Rams; the Records of the Council of Massachusetts during the Presidency of Joseph Dudley, communicated by Mr. TOPPAN; the letters communicated by Mr. NOBLE from the Suffolk Court Files; the documents from the Winthrop Papers, communicated by Mr. GOODELL; the two papers by Mr. DAVIS on the Provincial Currency of Massachusetts; and the paper by Mr. CARR on the Admission of Missouri into the Union. There are also memoirs of Clement Hugh Hill, by CHARLES C. SMITH;

of Charles Francis Adams, by the PRESIDENT ; and of Francis A. Walker, by FRANCIS C. LOWELL, each with a portrait. Formal tributes of exceptional interest were paid to the memory of Walbridge A. Field, John C. Ropes, Charles F. Dunbar, and other members who died during the year ; and there are numerous shorter papers and historical documents.

For the Committee,

CHARLES C. SMITH.

BOSTON, June 30, 1900.